

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Rhode Island State Assessments

### *What reports will parents receive?*

Districts are being provided this week with individual student reports, which will be sent home to each family. These reports give a detailed breakdown of each student's score, showing how well the student performed in each subject area tested.

### *What reports will schools and districts receive?*

In addition, districts will receive reports that detail individual student responses to selected items on each test. These confidential reports will allow educators to examine their own instructional practices. They will be able to see which areas are being taught well and which may need further development.

### *What reports will be published on line?*

State, district, and school reports, as well as statewide summaries, are available on line, through a link on the RIDE website, [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)

These reports show percentages of students at each of the four scoring levels on each test. They also present the scores for students broken down by demographic groups (gender, ethnicity) and by program participation (e.g., students with disabilities, students with limited proficiency in English).

### *How well did my school do?*

RIDE will use these test results to calculate the school-performance classifications and to determine whether schools and districts met all their targets, as set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Schools and districts must meet performance targets for the school/district as a whole and for each of eight groups of students (Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, students with limited proficiency in English, students living in poverty, students with disabilities). Schools that miss targets may face sanctions, such as having to provide supplementary educational services. School-performance classifications will be released in the spring of 2006.

### *Is my school improving?*

This set of test results will serve as a baseline. It is difficult to compare these results with the results from previous years, as this is a new test.

### *Why did RIDE adopt a new set of tests?*

For many years, RIDE had been testing grades 4 and 8 plus a high-school grade. In 2001, NCLB required all states to annually test grades 3 through 8 plus a high-school grade. So RIDE had to greatly expand the state assessment program. By working together with two nearby states, we were able to develop a much better test that is directly tied to state standards and to classroom instruction. The tests will cost Rhode Island about \$13 million over six years. But it is estimated that Rhode Island saved about \$5 million through economies of scale by working with other states.